

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Final Office Action mailed June 26, 2008 in the above-identified application. The foregoing amendments cancel claims and rewrite allowable claims in independent form. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 30-57 were previously pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 30, 33, 44, 45 and 55 are amended. Claims 41-43 and 57 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. As amended, claims 30, 44, 45 and 55 are independent claims. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's courtesy in conducting a telephone interview with Applicant's attorney, William R. McClellan, on September 17, 2008 is acknowledged with appreciation. During the telephone interview, claim 57 was discussed in relation to the cited O'Connor patent. An amendment was agreed upon to distinguish over O'Connor. The Examiner indicated that upon filing of an RCE, an additional search would be performed.

The Examiner has objected to the limitation "the value" in claim 33 as lacking antecedent basis. Claim 33 has been amended to recite "a value", and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 30-32, 34-42, 48-50, 52-54, 56 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by O'Connor (U.S. 4,083,524). Claims 33 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over O'Connor. Claims 43-47 and 55 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

Notwithstanding the telephone interview, Applicants have elected to rewrite the allowable claims in independent form. In particular, claim 30 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 43 and intervening claims 41 and 42. Part of claim 41 was found to be

redundant and was therefore omitted. Allowable claims 44, 45 and 55 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 41-43 and 57 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Since all remaining claims have been indicated to be allowable or depend from allowable claims, the application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the application in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By William R. McClellan
William R. McClellan
Registration No.: 29,409
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
Federal Reserve Plaza
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206
617.646.8000